

Tyler T. Dugger
TOLLIVER LAW FIRM, P.C.
1004 Division Street
Post Office Box 1913
Billings, MT 59103
Telephone : (406) 256-9600
Facsimile: (406) 256-0781
tdugger@tolliverlaw.com

Attorneys for Ron Preuit

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA

RON PREUIT,

Plaintiff,

vs.

C.R. BARD, INC., a New Jersey corporation,
BARD PERIPHERAL VASCULAR, INC.,
(a subsidiary and/or division of defendant C.R.
BARD, INC.) an Arizona corporation,

Defendants.

) Case No. CV-21-78-B17-SPW-TJC

) **COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

) **DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL**

ORIGINAL COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff RON PREUIT, by and through his undersigned attorneys, hereby sue Defendants C.R. BARD, INC.; BARD PERIPHERAL VASCULAR, INC., a subsidiary corporation and/or division of C.R. BARD, INC., (collectively, the "Defendants") and allege as follows:

1. This is an action for damages relating to Defendants' development, testing, assembling, manufacture, packaging, labeling, preparing, distribution, marketing, supplying, and/or selling the defective product sold under the name "inferior vena cava filter" (hereinafter "filter").

PARTIES

Plaintiff

1 2. Plaintiff, Ron Preuit, (hereinafter "Plaintiff" or "Mr. Preuit") is a citizen of and resident
2 in Roberts, Montana which is located in Carbon County, Montana.

3 3. The C.R. Bard Recovery ® Filter System which gives rise to this cause of action was
4 implanted into Plaintiff's body at Deaconess Billings Clinic in Billings, Yellowstone County, Montana
5 on or around February 2005.
6

7
8 4. Venue is proper in this judicial district as a substantial part of the events or omissions
9 giving rise to the claim occurred within this judicial district and the Defendants regularly conduct
10 business in this District.
11

12 **Defendants**

13 5. Defendant C. R. Bard, Inc. is a wholly-subsiary of Becton, Dickinson and Company., and
14 is a New Jersey corporation with its principle place of business in New Jersey.

15 6. Defendant Bard Peripheral Vascular, Inc. is a wholly-subsiary of C.R. Bard, Inc., and is an
16 Arizona corporation with its principal place of business in Arizona.
17

18 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

19 7. Jurisdiction is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1) because the Plaintiff and
20 the Defendants are citizens of different states, and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000,
21 excluding interest and costs.

22 8. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391, as a substantial part of the events
23 or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred within this judicial district and the Defendants regularly
24 conduct business in this District.
25

26 **GENERAL FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**
27
28

1 9. Plaintiff brings this case for serious injuries suffered by Mr. Preuit as a result of a
2 surgically implanted medical device, known as Bard Recovery ® Filter System including but not limited
3 to, migration and embedment of the filter, device being irretrievable and fracture causing serious illness
4 and ongoing physical, emotional, and economic damages.
5

6 10. The Bard Recovery ® Filter was designed, manufactured, prepared, compounded,
7 assembled, processed, labeled, marketed, distributed, and sold by Defendants for prevention of blood
8 clots (thrombi) from traveling from the lower portions of the body to the heart and lungs.
9

10 11. At all times relevant to this action and prior to Plaintiff Ron Preuit, being implanted with
11 a Bard Recovery ® Filter, Defendants misrepresented the safety of the Bard Recovery ® Filter and
12 negligently designed, manufactured, prepared, compounded, assembled, processed, labeled, marketed,
13 distributed and sold the Bard Recovery ® Filter as a safe and effective device to be surgically implanted
14 to prevent blood clots from travelling from the lower portions of the body to the heart and lungs.
15

16 12. At all times relevant to this action and prior to Plaintiff Ron Preuit being implanted with a
17 Bard Recovery ® Filter, Defendants knew and had reason to know that the Bard Recovery ® Filter was
18 not safe for the patients for whom they were prescribed and implanted because once implanted the
19 devices were prone to fracturing, migrating, perforation the inferior vena cava wall and otherwise
20 malfunctioning.
21

22 13. At all times relevant to this action and prior to Plaintiff Ron Preuit being implanted with
23 an Bard Recovery ® Filter, the Defendants knew and had reason to know that patient implanted with an
24 Bard Recovery ® Filter had an increased risk of suffering life threatening injuries, including but not
25 limited to: death; hemorrhage; cardiac/pericardial tamponade; cardiac arrhythmia and other symptoms
26 similar to myocardial infarction; severe and persistent pain; perforations of tissue, vessels, and organs;
27 and inability to remove the device.
28

1 14. At all times relevant to this action and prior to Plaintiff Ron Preuit being implanted with a
2 Bard Recovery ® Filter, the Defendants and had reason to know the Bard Recovery ® Filters contained
3 conditions, which Defendants did not intend, which resulted in the devices not performing as safely as
4 the ordinary customer would expect.

5
6 15. Despite having knowledge of the dangers presented by the Bard Recovery ® Filter, the
7 Defendants failed to adequately warn Plaintiff's health care providers and/or the public at large of these
8 dangers.

9
10 **INFERIOR VENA CAVA FILTERS GENERALLY**

11 16. Inferior Vena Cava (IVC) Filters first came on the medical market in the 1960's. Over
12 the years, several different medical device manufacturers have introduced several different designs of
13 IVC filters.

14 17. An IVC filter is a device that is designed to filter or "catch" blood clots (called
15 "thrombi") that travel from the lower portions of the body to the heart and lungs. IVC filters may be
16 designed to be implanted, either permanently or temporarily, in the human body, more specifically,
17 within the inferior vena cava.

18
19 18. The inferior vena cava is a vein that returns blood to the heart from the lower portions of
20 the body. In certain people, for various reasons, thrombi travel from the vessels in the legs and pelvis,
21 through the vena cava and into the lungs. Oftentimes, these thrombi develop in the deep leg veins.
22 These thrombi are called "deep vein thrombosis" or "DVT". Once thrombi reach the lungs, they are
23 considered "pulmonary emboli" or "PE".

24
25 19. Certain people are at increased risk for the development of DVT or PE. For instance,
26 someone who undergoes knee or hip joint replacement is at risk for developing DVT/PE. Obese patients
27 are also at increased risk for DVT/PE. So too are people who have vascular diseases or whom have
28 experienced previous strokes. A number of other conditions predispose people to develop DVT/PE.

20. Those people at risk for DVT/PE can undergo medical treatment to manage the risk. For example, a doctor may prescribe medications like Heparin, Warfarin, or Lovenox to regulate the clotting factor of the blood. In some people who are at high risk for DVT/PE, or who cannot manage their conditions with medications, physicians may recommend surgically implanting an IVC filter to prevent pulmonary thromboembolic events.

21. As stated in this Complaint, IVC filters have been on the market for decades. The first IVC filters were permanent filters. These devices were designed to be left in a patient's IVC permanently and have long term follow-up data (of up to 20 years and longer) supporting their use and efficacy. Beginning in 2003, manufacturers also began marketing what are known as optional or retrievable filters. These filters are designed so that they can be surgically removed from a patient after the risk of PE has passed. These IVC filter designs, however, were not intended to remain within the human body for indeterminate periods of time. In other words, the initial designs of retrievable IVC filters were intended to remain implanted for a finite period of time. The Recovery Filter, the G2®, G2® Express (also known as the G2®X)¹, Eclipse and Meridian Filter manufactured by Bard and BPV are examples of retrievable filters.

THE RECOVERY FILTER

22. In 2002, Bard and BPV submitted a notification of intent to the FDA to market the "Recovery® Filter System" (hereafter "Recovery" or "Recovery Filter") for the prevention of recurrent pulmonary embolism by placement in the inferior vena cava.² On November 27, 2002, the FDA cleared

¹ "G2 Filter" – is meant to include the G2 as well as the G2 Express (also known as the G2X) filters manufactured by Bard. The only difference between the G2 and the G2 Express is a hook at the top of the device for a physician to attempt removal.

² Bard and BPV submitted the notification under Section 510(k) of the United States Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act ("Act") of 1976 (21 U.S.C. 321 *et seq*). The 510(k) review process requires any entity engaged in the design, manufacture, distribution or marketing of a device intended for human use to notify the FDA 90 days before it intends to market the device and to establish that the device is substantially equivalent to a legally marketed predicate device. (21 C.F.R. §§ 807.81, 807.92(a)(3)). Substantial equivalence means that the new device has the same intended use and technological characteristics

1 the Recovery Filter for marketing and use in the prevention of recurrent pulmonary embolism via
2 *permanent* placement in the vena cava in the following situations:

- 3 a. Pulmonary thromboembolism when anticoagulants are contraindicated;
- 4 b. Failure of anticoagulant therapy for thromboembolic disease;
- 5 c. Emergency treatment following massive pulmonary embolism where anticipated benefits
6 of conventional therapy are reduced;
- 7 d. Chronic, recurrent pulmonary embolism where anticoagulant therapy has failed or is
8 contraindicated.

9 23. In April 2003, Bard and BPV submitted a Section 510(k) premarket notification of intent
10 to market the Recovery® Filter for the additional intended use of *optional retrieval*. The FDA cleared
11 this additional intended use on July 25, 2003.

12 24. Bard and BPV began actually marketing the device in April 2003, but did not begin full
13 market release until 2004. Bard and BPV were aware that the Recovery filter was also used extensively
14 off-label, including for purely prophylactic reasons for trauma patients or patients with upcoming
15 surgeries such as bariatric procedures.

16 25. The Recovery Filter consists of two (2) levels of six (6) radially distributed Nitinol struts
17 that are designed to anchor the filter into the inferior vena cava and to catch any embolizing clots. There
18 are six short struts, which are commonly referred to as the arms, and six long struts, which are
19 commonly referred to as the legs. Each strut is held together by a single connection to a cap located at
20 the top of the device. According to the Patent filed for this device, the short struts are primarily for
21 “centering” or “positioning” with the vena cava, and the long struts with attached hooks are designed
22 primarily to prevent the device from migrating in response to “normal respiratory movement” or
23 “pulmonary embolism.”
24
25

26
27 as the predicate device. This approval process allows a manufacturer to bypass the rigorous safety scrutiny required by the
28 pre-market approval process.

1 26. As noted above, the Recovery Filter is constructed with “Nitinol”, which is an acronym
2 that stands for Nickel Titanium Naval Ordinance Laboratory. “Nitinol” possesses “shape memory.”
3 Meaning, Nitinol will change shape according to changes in temperature, and then, retake its prior shape
4 after returning to its initial temperature. When placed in saline, therefore, the Nitinol struts become soft
5 and can be straightened to allow delivery through a small diameter catheter. The metal struts then
6 reassume their original shape when warmed to body temperature in the vena cava.

7
8 27. The Recovery filter is inserted by a catheter that is guided by a physician (normally an
9 interventional radiologist) through a blood vessel into the inferior vena cava. The Recovery Filter is
10 designed to be retrieved in a similar fashion. The implanting physician normally reviews an imaging
11 study prior to placement to determine size of IVC, renal vein location, and to identify any venous
12 anomalies or clots in the vena cava. Following placement, the physician will normally use an imaging
13 study to confirm successful placement.

14
15 28. The Recovery Filter is prone to an unreasonably high risk of failure and patient injury
16 following placement in the human body. Multiple studies have reported Bard’s Recovery Filter to have
17 a fracture and migration rate ranging from 21% to 31.7%.³ When such failures occur, shards of the
18 device or the entire device can travel to the heart, where it can cause cardiac tamponade, perforation of
19 the atrial wall, myocardial infarction and death. These fractured shards may also become too embedded
20 in tissue or migrate to locations, such as the lungs, such that they are too dangerous to remove. These
21 patients are exposed to a lifetime of future risk.
22
23
24
25

26
27 ³ See e.g., Hull JE, Robertson SW. BARD G2 Filter: Evaluation and Management of Vena Cava Limb Perforation, Fracture
28 and Migration. *J Vasc Interv Radiol.* 2009;20(1):52-60; Nicholson W, *et al.* Prevalence of Fracture and Fragment
Embolization of the BARD G2 and Bard G2 Cava Filters and Clinical Implications Including Cardiac Perforation and
Tamponade. *Arch. Int. Med.* 2010 Nov.; 170:1827-31.

1 29. The Recovery Filter similarly poses a high risk of perforating the vena cava walls. When
2 such failures occur, the device can perforate the duodenum, small bowel, ureter, which may lead to
3 retroperitoneal hematomas, small-bowel obstructions, extended periods of severe pain, and/or death.
4 Further, given the risks of injury in attempting to remove devices that have perforated the vena cava, the
5 device may be irremovable. These patients are faced with a lifetime of future risk.
6

7 30. The Recovery Filter failures described above occur at a substantially higher rate than
8 with other IVC filters.
9

10 31. Soon after the Recovery Filter's introduction to the market, Bard and BPV began
11 receiving large numbers of adverse event reports from health care providers.

12 30. The adverse event reports (AERs) associated with IVC filter devices demonstrates that
13 Bard's IVC Filters are far more prone to device failure than are other similar devices. A review of the
14 FDA MAUDE database from the years 2004-2008 reveals data to establish that Bard's IVC filters are
15 responsible for the following percentages of all AERs:
16

- 17 a. 50% of all adverse events
- 18 b. 64% of all occurrences of migration of the device
- 19 c. 69% of all occurrences of vena cava wall perforation
- 20 d. 70% of all occurrences of filter fracture.

21 31. These failures are attributable, in part, to the fact that the Recovery Filter was designed to
22 be unable to withstand the normal anatomical and physiological loading cycles exerted *in vivo*.

23 32. In addition to design defects, the Recovery Filter suffers from manufacturing defects.
24 These manufacturing defects include, but are not limited to, the existence of "draw markings" and
25 circumferential grinding markings on the exterior of the surface of the device. The presence of these
26 draw markings and/or circumferential grinding markings further compromises the structural integrity of
27 the device while *in vivo*. In particular, the Recovery Filter is prone to fail at or near the location of draw
28 markings/circumferential grinding markings on the struts of the device. Put simply, the Recovery Filter

1 is not of sufficient strength to withstand normal placement within the human body. The presence of the
2 aforementioned exterior manufacturing defects makes the device more susceptible to failure.

3 33. Bard and BPV knew that no clinical testing, such as animal studies or simulated use tests,
4 was conducted to determine whether the Recovery Filter would perform safely once implanted in the
5 human body and subjected normal *in vivo* stresses.
6

7 34. Soon after the Recovery Filter's introduction to the market in 2003, Bard and BPV began
8 receiving large numbers of adverse event reports ("AERs") from health care providers reporting that the
9 Recovery® Filter was fracturing post-implantation and that fractured pieces and/or the entire device
10 were migrating throughout the human body, including to the heart and lungs. Bard and BPV also
11 received large numbers of AERs reporting that the Recovery Filter was found to have perforated the
12 inferior vena cava post-implantation. These failures were often associated with reports of severe patient
13 injuries such as:
14

- 15 a. Death;
- 16 b. Hemorrhage;
- 17 c. Cardiac/pericardial tamponade (pressure caused by a collection of blood in the
18 area around the heart);
- 19 d. Cardiac arrhythmia and other symptoms similar to myocardial infarction;
- 20 e. Severe and persistent pain; and
- 21 f. Perforations of tissue, vessels and organs.

22 35. Within the first year of full market release of the Recovery Filter, Bard and BPV received
23 at least 32 AERs reporting that the Recovery Filter had fractured *in vivo* and at least 22 AERs reporting
24 that the entire device had migrated *in vivo*. Of the 22 reported migration failures, at least nine (9) were
25 reported to have been associated with patient death.

26 36. From 2003 through September 2005, Bard and BPV received ever growing numbers of
27 AERs reporting the above described failures and patient injuries. Defendants knew or should have
28 known that the failure rates associated with the Recovery Filter were substantially higher than other

1 similar products on the market, yet Bard and BPV failed to warn consumers of this unreasonably
2 dangerous device.

3 37. In late 2004 or early 2005 Bard and BPV, without notifying consumers of the design and
4 manufacturing flaws inherent in the Recovery Filter, began redesigning the Recovery Filter in an
5 attempt to correct those flaws. The redesigned filter is known as the G2 Filter, which stands for second
6 generation Recovery Filter. Bard later manufactured the G2 Express (also known as the G2X) and the
7 Eclipse filter, which are based on the Recovery Filter design. Once Bard and BPV had obtained FDA
8 approval to market the redesigned product in or around August 2005, Bard and BPV quietly stopped
9 marketing the Recovery Filter. Bard and BPV failed, however, to make any effort to notify consumers of
10 the risk inherent in the use of the Recovery Filter.
11
12

13 14 **THE G2 AND G2 EXPRESS FILTER SYSTEM**

15 38. In 2005, Bard and BPV redesigned its first-generation retrievable filter, Recovery Filter,
16 in an attempt to fix its design and manufacturing flaws. The redesigned filter is known as the G2 Filter,
17 which stands for second generation Recovery Filter.
18

19 39. On August 10, 2005, Bard and BPV submitted a Section 510(k) premarket notification of
20 intent to market the G2 Filter for the prevention of recurrent pulmonary embolism via permanent
21 placement in the inferior vena cava. Bard and BPV cited the Recovery Filter as the substantially
22 equivalent predicate device. Bard and BPV stated that the differences between the Recovery Filter and
23 the G2 Filter were primarily dimensional and no material changes or additional components were added.
24 On August 29, 2005, the FDA cleared the G2 Filter for the same intended uses as the Recovery Filter,
25 except that it was not cleared for retrievable use.⁴
26
27

28

⁴ The FDA did not clear the G2® Filter to be used as a retrievable filter until January 15, 2008.

1 40. Even after the redesigned G2 Filter was cleared for use, Bard and BPV failed to take any
2 steps to recall the Recovery Filter and/or to notify consumers that the failure rates associated with the
3 Recovery Filter were substantially higher than other similar products on the market.

4 41. Bard and BPV marketed the G2 Filter as having “enhanced fracture resistance,”
5 “improved centering,” and “increased migration resistance.” Despite these claims, however, Bard and
6 BPV failed to ensure that the changes made to the G2 Filter were sufficient to cure the defective and
7 unreasonably dangerous nature of the device. Thus, the G2 Filter shares the same defects and health
8 risks as its predicate device.

9 42. The G2 Filter’s design causes it to be of insufficient integrity and strength to withstand
10 normal *in vivo* body stresses within the human body so as to resist fracturing, migrating, and/or
11 perforating the inferior vena cava.

12 43. Also, like its predecessor, in addition to design defects, the G2 Filter suffers from
13 manufacturing defects. These manufacturing defects include, but are not limited to, the existence of
14 “draw markings” and circumferential grinding markings on the exterior of the surface of the device. The
15 presence of these draw markings and/or circumferential grinding markings further compromises the
16 structural integrity of the G2 Filter while *in vivo*. In particular, the G2 Filter is prone to fail at or near the
17 location of draw markings/circumferential grinding markings on the struts of the device. Put simply, the
18 G2 Filter is not of sufficient strength to withstand normal placement within the human body. The
19 presence of the aforementioned exterior manufacturing defects makes the device more susceptible to
20 fatigue failure.

21 44. As with the Recovery Filter, Bard and BPV immediately began receiving large numbers
22 of AERs reporting that the G2 Filter was, *inter alia*, fracturing, migrating, and perforating the vena cava
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 once implanted. These failures were again often associated with reports of severe patient injuries such
2 as:

- 3 a. death;
- 4 b. hemorrhage;
- 5 c. cardiac/pericardial tamponade (pressure caused by a collection of blood in the
6 area around the heart);
- 7 d. cardiac arrhythmia and other symptoms similar to myocardial infarction;
- 8 e. severe and persistent pain;
- 9 f. and perforations of tissue, vessels and organs.

10 45. Defendants represent the fracture rate of the G2 Filter to be 1.2%. Based upon a review of
11 the data available in the public domain (including the FDA MAUDE database statistics and the
12 published medical literature), this representation does not accurately reflect the true incidence of device
13 fracture for the G2 Filter.

14 46. A review of the MAUDE database from the years 2004-2008 reveals data to establish that
15 the Bard and BPV's vena cava filters (including the G2 Filter) are responsible for the majority of all
16 reported adverse events related to inferior vena cava filters.

17 47. The G2 Express filter was cleared by the FDA on July 30, 2008. The only significant
18 difference between this filter and the G2 was a new snare tip which was designed in an effort to
19 optimize retrieval. Bard launched and began marketing the G2 Express in August 2008. The G2 and the
20 G2 Express are the same filter, from a design standpoint, and share the same defects and complications.

21 48. The G2X filter was cleared by the FDA on October 31, 2008. As with the G2® Express,
22 the G2X had minimal design difference between it and the G2 Filter. Bard launched the G2X Filter in
23 January 2009. The G2, G2 Express, and the G2X are the same filter, from a design standpoint, and share
24 the same defects and complications.

25 49. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that as early as 2003, Bard and BPV were
26 aware and had knowledge of the fact that the Recovery Filter was defective and unreasonably dangerous
27
28

1 and was causing injury and death to patients who had received it. Similarly, Bard and BPV were aware
2 as early as 2005 that the G2 Filter System family was defective and unreasonably dangerous and was
3 causing injury and death to patients who had received it. And due to the similarities in design, Bard
4 should have known that the G2 Express and G2x were just as dangerous and defective.
5

6 50. Data establishes that the failure rate of the G2 Filter System, and filters within that
7 family, was/is exceedingly higher than the rate that Bard and BPV have in the past, and currently
8 continue to publish to the medical community, members of the public. Further, Bard and BPV are aware
9 or should have been aware that the G2 Filter, the G2 Express, and the G2X have a substantially higher
10 failure rate than other similar products on the market, yet they have failed to warn consumers of this
11 fact.
12

13 51. Upon information and belief, from the time the G2 Filter System became available on the
14 market, the Defendants Bard and BPV embarked on an aggressive campaign of “off label marketing”
15 concerning the G2 Filter System. These included representations made to physicians, healthcare
16 professionals, and other members of the medical community that the G2 Filter System was safe and
17 effective for retrievable use prior to the FDA approving the G2 Filter System for retrievable use.
18

19 52. Despite having knowledge as early as 2005 of the unreasonably dangerous and defective
20 nature of the product, Bard and BPV consciously disregarded the known risks and continued to actively
21 market and offer for sale the G2 Filter System and the G2® Express.
22

23 **THE ECLIPSE VENA CAVA FILTER**

24 53. In an effort to resolve the complications associated with the G2 filter and the G2 Express,
25 Bard designed the Eclipse Vena Cava Filter as the next generation in its filter family.
26

27 54. The Eclipse Filter was cleared by the FDA on January 14, 2010. The only design changes
28 from the G2 family of filters to the Eclipse Filter was that hooks were added to the legs of the filter and

1 the struts of the filter were electropolished. The Eclipse Filter continued to share several of the same
2 design defects and complications associated with the Recovery Filter and G2 family of filters due to the
3 fact that the Eclipse design was based on its predecessors.

4
5 55. Bard launched the Eclipse Filter in 2010. Soon thereafter, Bard began receiving similar
6 complaints associated with the Eclipse filter as at it had with the predecessor filters. For the reason that
7 the Eclipse is based on Bard's previous filter designs, the Eclipse filter shares the same or similar design
8 and manufacturing defects as Bard's previous filters and suffers from the same complications and
9 defects.

10 THE MERIDIAN FILTER

11
12 56. In August of 2011, the Meridian Filter was cleared by the F.D.A. for introduction to the
13 global market. The Meridian Filter was also submitted under the notification provisions of section
14 510(k) of the United States Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act ("Act") of 1976 (21 U.S.C. 321 *et seq.*). The
15 Defendants represented to the F.D.A. that the Meridian was substantially similar to the Eclipse Filter
16 System (predicate device).

17
18 57. The Meridian Filter system was the next generation of Bard's retrievable or optional
19 filters. The Meridian Filter is made of the same nickel-titanium alloy, Nitinol, as the Bard Recovery, G2
20 and Eclipse Filters. The design of the Meridian is based on the Eclipse Filter System which is based
21 entirely off the G2 filter which is also designed, manufactured and sold by the Defendants. Like the
22 Eclipse, the Nitinol wires used in the Meridian Filter are electropolished prior to the forming of the
23 filter.

24
25 58. As seen with the Recovery, G2 and Eclipse Filters, soon after its introduction to the
26 market, reports were made that the Meridian Filters were fracturing, perforating, and/or migrating in the
27
28

1 patients it which they were implanted. The Meridian Filter System was still plagued with manufacturing
2 and design defects that were causing damage to the general public.

3 59. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that as early as 2011, Bard and BPV were
4 aware and had knowledge of the fact that the Meridian Filter was defective and unreasonably dangerous
5 and was causing injury to patients who had received it. Bard and BPV knew or should have known that
6 the similarities in design between the Meridian Filter and its predecessors made the Meridian Filter just
7 as dangerous and prone to defects and complications.
8

9 60. Data establishes that the failure rate of the Meridian Filter, and its predecessors, was/is
10 exceedingly higher than the rate that Bard and BPV have in the past, and currently continue to publish to
11 the medical community, members of the public. Further, Bard and BPV are aware or should have been
12 aware that the Meridian Filter had a substantially higher failure rate than other similar products on the
13 market, yet they have failed to warn consumers of this fact.
14

15 61. Upon information and belief, from the time the Meridian Filter became available on the
16 market, the Defendants Bard and BPV embarked on an aggressive campaign of “off label marketing”
17 concerning the Meridian Filter. These included representations made to physicians, healthcare
18 professionals, and other members of the medical community that the Meridian Filter was safe and
19 effective for classes of patients when data and the Meridian Filter’s own clearance did not allow for such
20 representations.
21

22 62. Despite having knowledge as early as 2011, and even earlier based on predecessor filters,
23 of the unreasonably dangerous and defective nature of the product, Bard and BPV consciously
24 disregarded the known risks and continued to actively market and offer for sale the Meridian Filter.
25

26 63. The conduct of Bard and BPV as alleged in this Complaint constitutes willful, wanton,
27 gross, and outrageous corporate conduct that demonstrates a conscious disregard for the safety of
28

1 Plaintiff and the community at large. Bard and BPV had actual knowledge of the dangers presented by
2 the Meridian Filter, yet consciously failed to act reasonably to:

- 3 a. Inform or warn Plaintiff, her physicians, or the public at large of these dangers;
- 4 b. Establish and maintain an adequate quality and post-market surveillance system;
5 and
- 6 c. Recall the Meridian Filter System from the market.

7 64. Plaintiff further alleges that Bard and BPV acted in willful, wanton, gross and total
8 disregard for the health and safety of the users or consumers of their Meridian Filter, acted to serve their
9 own interests, and having reason to know and consciously disregarding the substantial risk that their
10 product might kill or significantly harm patients, or significantly injure the rights of others, consciously
11 pursued a course of conduct knowing that such conduct created a substantial risk of significant harm to
12 other persons.

13 65. The failures of the Meridian Filter are attributable, in part, to the fact that the Meridian
14 Filter was designed so as to be unable to withstand the normal anatomical and physiological loading
15 cycles exerted *in vivo*.

16 **THE DENALI® FILTER**

17 66. The Denali® filter was cleared by the FDA on May 15, 2013. It is Bard's latest
18 generation device in the IVC filter product line.

19 67. Bard represented to the FDA that the Denali® was substantially similar to the
20 Eclipse® filter, again bypassing formal pre-market FDA approval and instead utilizing the 510(k)
21 process.

22 68. The Denali® Filter is also made of NITINOL. Its design is based on the Eclipse®
23 filter, which in turn, was based on Bard's predecessor filter line. Like the Eclipse®, the
24 NITINOL wires used in the Denali® filter are electropolished prior to the forming of the filter.

1 The added features to the Denali® Filter were cranial and caudal anchoring systems (to reduce the
2 prevalence of the filter migration) and penetration limiters.

3
4 69. However, as seen with the Recovery®, G2®, G2X® (G2 Express®), and Eclipse®
5 Filters, soon after its introduction to the market, reports were made that the Denali®
6 filters were fracturing, perforating, migrating, and/or tilting in the patients in which
7 they were implanted.

8
9 70. The Denali® filter was likewise plagued with the same manufacturing and design
10 defects that were causing damage to the general public in Bard's predecessor retrievable filter
11 family.

12
13 71. At all times material hereto from the design phase, testing, and manufacture of the
14 Recovery® filter through the Denali® filter, Bard lacked a thorough understanding dynamics of
15 caval anatomy that impacted testing methods.

16
17 72. At this time, all Bard IVC Filters, Bard Recovery IVC Filter, contain the same or
18 substantially similar defects resulting in the same or substantially similar mechanism of injury to
19 the Plaintiff.

20
21 73. At this time, all Bard IVC Filters, including the Bard Recovery IVC Filter, are
22 misbranded and adulterated by virtue of them failing to be the substantial equivalent
23 of their predecessor devices, all of which were required to be as safe and effective as
24 the original predicate device, the Simon Nitinol Filter, and none were/are, making
25 them subject to corrective action, including recall, in the interest of patient safety.

26 The use of each of these subject devices was inappropriate and illegal since each was
27
28

1 being marketed while adulterated and misbranded for failing, among other things, to
2 be as safe and effective as the originating predicate device, SNF.

3
4 74. At all relevant times, safer alternative designs existed for this product, including but not
5 limited to the Simon Nitinol filter, the ALN, the Gunther Tulip filter, and modifications to
6 the G2 filter, as well as reasonable treatment alternatives.

7 **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A BARD RECOVERY ® FILTER SYSTEM FAILS?**

8
9 75. The failure (fracture, migration, and/or perforation) of the Bard Recovery ® Filter
10 System leads to a number of different, and potentially fatal, complications. These complications include,
11 but are not limited to:

- 12 a. Death;
13 b. Hemorrhage;
14 c. Cardiac/pericardial tamponade (pressure caused by a collection of blood in the area
15 around the heart);
16 d. Severe and persistent pain; and
17 e. Perforation of tissue, vessels and organs.

18 76. The person who experiences failure (fracture, migration, and/or perforation) of the Bard
19 Recovery ® Filter System typically experiences an acute onset of pain. This typically results in the
20 person presenting to an emergency room, hospital, and/or physician for evaluation.

21 **THE CASE FOR MEDICAL MONITORING**

22 77. In certain cases, medical monitoring is required to evaluate whether a Bard Recovery ®
23 Filter System (or portions of the Bard Recovery ® Filter) has fractured, perforated and/or migrated
24 (collectively referred to herein as “device failure” or “failure”). In order to determine whether failure of
25 the Bard Recovery ® Filter System has occurred, imaging studies must be performed. Typically, these
26 imaging studies will include un-enhanced computed tomography scan (CT Scan) so that the filter may
27 be visualized. CT Scan imaging produces an image of the filter and is able to reveal whether the filter
28 has fractured or migrated.

1 78. Patients requiring medical monitoring are recommended⁵ to undergo regular and frequent
2 imaging studies of the device or portions of the device at least once or twice annually. As long as the
3 device, or portions of the device, remains within the body of the patient, the potential for future device
4 failure exists. Consequently, these patients require regular and frequent medical monitoring for the
5 duration of time the device, or portions of the device, remain within their bodies.
6

7 79. Patients eligible for medical monitoring of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System or
8 portions of the device need not have experienced past failure of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System. For
9 example, patients who have undergone implant of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System frequently learn
10 that the Bard Recovery ® Filter cannot be removed due to the fact that it has “grown into” tissue, but,
11 the fracture, or migration of the device may not yet have occurred. Other patients may experience
12 fracture and migration of a piece of the filter to other organs, such as the heart and lungs, where the risk
13 of removal currently weighs against removal. As a result of the inability to remove the Bard Recovery ®
14 Filter System, the device must remain permanently implanted in the patient, for the patient’s lifetime.
15 Although these patients may not yet have experienced device failure, they are at risk for future device
16 failure and require regular and frequent monitoring to evaluate the integrity of the Bard Recovery ®
17 Filter System. In addition to the aforementioned imaging studies, endovascular intervention (typically
18 cardiac catheterization) may also be used by medical professionals to diagnose or discover whether
19 fractured portions of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System have migrated to the heart or lungs.
20 Furthermore, endovascular surgery may assess the nature and extent of the damage resulting from
21 failure of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System.
22
23
24
25

26 ⁵ Research studies performed in 2008 call for the need of regular and frequent medical monitoring for a patient who had the
27 Recovery™ vena cava filter implanted in their body. This 2008 research study performed by Jeffrey Hull, M.D. recommends
28 regular and frequent monitoring of patients in whom the Recovery Filter System remains implanted. (*Retrieval of the
Recovery Filter after Arm Perforation, Fracture, and Migration to the Right Ventricle*, Hull et. al., J. Vasc. Intern. Radiol.
2008; 19:1107.1111). Dr. Hull specifically recommends “imaging with un-enhanced abdominal CT to look for arm
perforation, fracture or migration to further evaluate the scope and risk posed by [the Recovery] filter.”

1 80. In those instances where device fracture has occurred, and depending on the
2 circumstances particular to the patient, a person may be required to undergo one or all of the following
3 medical procedures:

- 4
5 a. CT Scanning or other imaging studies;
6 b. Cardiac Catheterization;
7 c. Open heart surgery;
8 d. Removal of the Recovery ® Filter System from the vena cava.

9 81. The Bard Recovery ® Filter System was placed in Plaintiff Ron Preuit's body on or
10 about February 18, 2005. It was recently discovered that all the Bard Recovery ® Filter System struts
11 have perforated the IVC wall and there is direct contact with the wall of the aorta.

12 82. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct and defective product of the Defendants
13 C.R. Bard, Inc. and Bard Peripheral Vascular, Inc., as alleged in this Complaint, Plaintiff Ron Preuit, has
14 suffered permanent and continuing injury, loss of enjoyment of life, pain, suffering, and impairment.
15 Plaintiff has suffered emotional trauma, harm and injuries. Plaintiff's ability to carry on the affairs of his
16 daily life has been impacted and diminished and will continue to diminish in the future.

17 83. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct and defective product of the Defendants,
18 C.R. Bard, Inc. and Bard Peripheral Vascular, Inc., as alleged in this Complaint, the Plaintiff has
19 incurred substantial medical expenses, and will continue to incur substantial medical expenses into the
20 future.
21

22 **THE NECESSITY FOR MEDICAL MONITORING**

23 84. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct and defective product of the Defendants,
24 C.R. Bard, Inc. and Bard Peripheral Vascular, Inc., as alleged in this Complaint, medical monitoring is
25 necessary for Plaintiff's Medical monitoring includes:
26

- 27 a. Regularly scheduled CT scans or other appropriate imaging studies; and/or
28

- b. Potential cardiac catheterization or other endovascular procedure to detect the presence of migrated pieces of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System and/or Physicians' visits and examinations.

**THE DEFENDANTS' KNOWLEDGE OF THE FAILURE OF
THE BARD RECOVERY ® FILTER SYSTEM AND THE DANGERS ASSOCIATED
WITH THE DEVICE**

85. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that as early as 2003, the Defendants C.R. Bard, Inc. and Bard Peripheral Vascular, Inc. were aware and had knowledge of the fact that the Bard Recovery ® Filter System was defective and unreasonably dangerous and was causing serious and potentially life-threatening injuries to patients who had received the Bard Recovery ® Filter System.

86. From the time the Bard Recovery ® Filter System became available on the market, the Defendants C.R. Bard, Inc. and Bard Peripheral Vascular, Inc., made representations to physicians, healthcare professionals, and other members of the medical community that the Bard Recovery ® Filter System was safe and effective for retrievable use, when they knew or should've known it wasn't.

87. Data established that the failure rate of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System was/is exceedingly higher than the rates the Defendants have published in the past, and currently continue to publish to the medical community, members of the public, and the F.D.A.

88. Over 921 adverse events were identified by the F.D.A. through a warning issued in August of 2010 regarding the risks associated with IVC filter complications.

89. The conduct of the Defendants C.R. Bard, Inc. and Bard Peripheral Vascular, Inc. as alleged in this Complaint, constituted, willful, wanton, gross, and outrageous corporate conduct that demonstrates a conscious disregard for the safety of the Plaintiff Ron Preuit. The Defendants C.R. Bard, Inc. and Bard Peripheral Vascular Inc. had actual knowledge of dangers to the life and limb of the Plaintiff Ron Preuit, presented by the Bard Recovery ® Filter System, yet consciously failed to act reasonably to:

- a. Inform or warn the Plaintiff, her physicians, or the public at large of the dangers; and
- b. Recall the Bard Recovery ® Filter System from the market in a timely and safe fashion;

90. Despite having knowledge as early as 2003 of the unreasonably dangerous and defective nature of the product, the Defendants C.R. Bard, Inc. and Bard Peripheral Vascular, Inc. consciously disregarded the known risks and continued to actively market and offer for sale the Bard Recovery ® Filter System. Plaintiff alleges that the Defendants acted in willful, wanton, gross manner, and in total disregard for the health and safety of the users or consumers of its Bard Recovery ® Filter System, including Plaintiff Ron Preuit and acted to serve their own interests and having reason to know and consciously pursued a course of conduct knowing that such conduct created a substantial risk of significant harm to other persons. Therefore, Defendants should be required to respond to the Plaintiffs in the form of a punitive or exemplary damage award.

THE FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

91. Federal regulation states that “recall means a firm’s removal or correction of a marketed product that the Food and Drug Administration considers to be in violation of the laws it administers and against which the agency would initiate legal action, e.g. seizure.” See 21 CFR §7.3(g).

92. Federal regulation states that “recall classification means the numerical designation, i.e., I, II or III, assigned by the Food and Drug Administration to a particular product recall to indicate the relative degree of health hazard presented by the product being recalled.” See 21 CFR §7.3(m).

93. Federal regulation states that “class II is a situation in which use of, or exposure to, a violative product may cause temporary or medically reversible adverse health consequences or where the probability of serious adverse health consequences is remote.” See 21 CFR §7.3(m).

1 94. The classification of the product withdrawals and corrections of the Defendant's devices
2 (described above) as Class II Recalls by the F.D.A confirms by definition that the devices were in
3 violation of federal law and that initiation of legal action or seizure would be indicated for these devices.
4

5 95. Pursuant to federal law, a device is deemed to be adulterated if, among other things, it
6 fails to meet established performance standards, or if the methods, facilities or controls used for its
7 manufacture, packing, storage or installation are not in conformity with federal requirements. See 21
8 U.S.C. §351.

9 96. Pursuant to federal law, a device is deemed to be misbranded if, among other things, its
10 labeling is false or misleading in any particular manner, or if it is dangerous to health when used in the
11 manner prescribed, recommended or suggested in the labeling thereof. See 21 U.S.C. §352.
12

13 97. Pursuant to federal law, manufacturers are required to comply with F.D.A. regulation of
14 medical devices, including F.D.A. requirements for records and reports, in order to prohibit introduction
15 of medical devices that are adulterated or misbranded, and to assure the safety and effectiveness of
16 medical devices. In particular, manufacturers must keep records and make reports if any medical device
17 that may have caused or contributed to death or serious injury, or if the device has malfunctioned in a
18 manner likely to cause or contribute to death or serious injury. Federal law also mandates that the F.D.A.
19 establish regulations requiring a manufacturer of a medical device to report promptly to F.D.A. any
20 correction or removal of a device undertaken to reduce a risk to health posed by the device, or to remedy
21 a violation of federal law by which a device may present a risk to health. See 21 U.S.C. §360(i).
22

23 98. Pursuant to federal law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may prescribe
24 regulations requiring that the methods used in, and that facilities and controls used for, the manufacture,
25 pre-production design validation (including a process to assess the performance of a device but not
26 including an evaluation of the safety or effectiveness of a device), packaging, storage, and installation of
27
28

1 a device conform to current good manufacturing proactive, as prescribed in such regulations, to assure
2 that the device will be safe and effective and otherwise in compliance with federal law. See 21. U.S.C.
3 §360j(f).

4
5 99. Pursuant to F.D.A. regulation, adverse events associated with a medical device must be
6 reported to F.D.A. within 30 days after the manufacturer becomes aware that a device may have caused
7 or contributed to death or serious injury, or that a device has malfunctioned and would be likely to cause
8 or contribute to death or serious injury if the malfunction was to recur. Such reports must contain all
9 information reasonably known to the manufacturer, including any information that can be obtained by
10 analysis, testing, or other evaluation of the device, and any information in the manufacturer's
11 possession. In addition, manufacturers are responsible for conducting an investigation of each adverse
12 event, and must evaluate the cause of the adverse event. See 21 CFR §803.50.
13

14 100. Pursuant to federal regulation, manufacturers of medical devices must also describe in
15 every individual adverse event report whether remedial action was taken in regard to the adverse event,
16 and whether the remedial action was reported to F.D.A. as a removal or correction of the device. See 21
17 CFR §803.52.
18

19 101. Pursuant to federal regulation, manufacturers must report to F.D.A. within five (5)
20 business days after becoming aware of any reportable MDR event or events, including a trend analysis
21 that necessitates remedial action to prevent an unreasonable risk of substantial harm to the public health.
22 See 21 CFR §803.53.
23

24 102. Pursuant to federal regulation, device manufacturers must report promptly to F.D.A. any
25 device corrections and removals and maintain records of device corrections and removals. F.D.A.
26 regulations require submission of a written report within ten (10) working days of any correction or
27 removal of a device initiated by the manufacturer to reduce a risk to health posed by the device, or to
28

1 remedy a violation of the Act caused by the device, which may present a risk to health. The written
2 submission must contain, among other things, a description of the event giving rise to the information
3 reported and the corrective or removal actions taken, and any illness or injuries that have occurred with
4 use of the device, including reference to any device report numbers. Manufacturers must also indicate
5 the total number of devices manufactured or distributed which are subject to the correction or removal,
6 and provide a copy of all communications regarding the correction or removal. See 21 CFR §806.

8 103. Pursuant to federal regulation, manufacturers must comply with specific quality system
9 requirements promulgated by F.D.A. These regulations require manufacturers to meet design control
10 requirements, including but not limited to conducting design validation to ensure that devices conform
11 to defined user needs and intended uses. Manufacturers must also meet quality standards in manufacture
12 and production. Manufacturers must establish and maintain procedures for implementing corrective
13 actions and preventive actions and investigate the cause of nonconforming products and take corrective
14 action to prevent recurrence. Manufacturers are also required to review and evaluate all complaints and
15 determine whether an investigation is necessary. Manufacturers are also required to use statistical
16 techniques where necessary to evaluate product performance. See 21 CFR §820.

19 104. The regulations requiring conformance to good manufacturing practices are set forth in
20 21 CFR §820 et seq. As explained in the Federal Register, because the Current Good Manufacturing
21 Practice (CGMP) regulations must apply to a variety of medical devices, the regulations do not prescribe
22 the details for how a manufacturer must produce a device. Rather, the quality system regulations provide
23 a framework of basic requirements for each manufacturer to use in establishing a quality system
24 appropriate to the devices designed and manufactured, and the manufacturing processes employed.
25 Manufacturers must adopt current and effective methods and procedures for each device they design and
26
27
28

1 manufacture to comply with and implement the basic requirements set forth in the quality system
2 regulations.

3 105. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.1(c), the failure to comply with any applicable provision in Part
4 820 renders a device adulterated under section 501(h) of the Federal Food Drug & Cosmetic Act (“the
5 Act”) (21 U.S.C. § 351).
6

7 106. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.5, each manufacturer shall establish and maintain a quality
8 system that is appropriate for the specific medical device designed or manufactured. “Quality system”
9 means the organizations structure, responsibilities, procedures, processes, and resources for
10 implementing quality management. See 21 CFR §820.3(v).
11

12 107. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.22, each manufacturer shall establish procedures for quality
13 audits and conduct such audits to assure that the quality system is in compliance with the established
14 quality system requirements and to determine the effectiveness of the quality system.
15

16 108. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.30(a), each manufacturer shall establish and maintain
17 procedures to control the design of the device in order to ensure that specified design requirements are
18 met.

19 109. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.30(d), each manufacturer shall establish and maintain
20 procedures for defining and documenting design output in terms that allow an adequate evaluation of
21 conformance to design input requirements.
22

23 110. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.30(e), each manufacturer shall establish and maintain
24 procedures to ensure that formal documented reviews of the design results are planned and conducted at
25 appropriate stages of the device’s design development.
26
27
28

1 111. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.30(f), each manufacturer shall establish and maintain
2 procedures for verifying the device design to confirm that the device design output meets the design
3 input requirements.

4 112. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.30(g), each manufacturer shall establish and maintain
5 procedures for validating the device design. Design validation shall be performed under defined
6 operating conditions on initial production units, lots, or batches, or their equivalents. Design validations
7 shall ensure that devices conform to defined user needs and intended uses and shall include testing of
8 production units under actual or simulated use conditions.

9 113. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.30(h), each manufacturer shall establish and maintain
10 procedures to ensure that the device design is correctly translated into production specifications.

11 114. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.30(i), each manufacturer shall establish and maintain
12 procedures for the identification, documentation, validation or where appropriate verification, review,
13 and approval of design changes before their implementation.

14 115. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.70(a), each manufacturer shall develop, conduct, control, and
15 monitor production processes to ensure that a device conforms to its specifications. Where deviations
16 from device specifications could occur as a result of the manufacturing process, the manufacturer shall
17 establish and maintain process control procedures that describe any process controls necessary to ensure
18 conformance to specifications. Such process controls shall include:

- 19 a. Documented instructions, standard operating procedures (SOP's), and methods
20 that define and control the manner of production;
21 b. Monitoring and control of process parameters and component and device
22 characteristics during production;
23 c. Compliance with specified reference standards or codes;
24 d. The approval of processes and process equipment; and
25
26
27
28

1 e. Criteria for workmanship which shall be expressed in documented standards or by
2 means of identified and approved representative sample.

3 116. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.70(b), each manufacturer shall establish and maintain
4 procedures for changes to a specification, method, process, or procedure.

5 117. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.70(c), each manufacturer shall establish and maintain
6 procedures to adequately control environmental conditions that could reasonably be expected to have an
7 adverse effect on product quality, including periodic inspection of environmental control system(s) to
8 verify that the system, including necessary equipment, is adequate and functioning properly.

9 118. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.70(e), each manufacturer shall establish and maintain
10 procedures to prevent contamination of equipment or product by substances that could reasonably be
11 expected to have an adverse effect on product quality.

12 119. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.70(g), each manufacturer shall ensure that all equipment used
13 in the manufacturing process meets specified requirement and is appropriately designed, constructed,
14 placed, and installed to facilitate maintenance, adjustment, cleaning and use.

15 120. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.70(h), each manufacturer shall establish and maintain
16 procedures for the use and removal of manufacturing material which could reasonably be expected to
17 have an adverse effect on product quality to ensure that it is removed or limited to an amount that does
18 not adversely effect the device's quality.

19 121. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.70(i), when computers or automated data processing systems
20 are used as part of production or the quality system, the manufacturer shall validate computer software
21 for its intended use according to an established protocol.

22 122. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.72, each manufacturer shall ensure that all inspection,
23 measuring, and test equipment, including mechanical, automated, or electronic inspection and test
24 equipment, is suitable for its intended purposes and is capable of producing valid results. Each
25
26
27
28

1 manufacturer shall establish and maintain procedures to ensure that equipment is routinely calibrated,
2 inspected, checked, and maintained.

3 123. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.75(a), where the results of a process cannot be fully verified by
4 subsequent inspection and test, the process shall be validated with a high degree of assurance and
5 approved according to established procedures. "Process validation" means establishing by objective
6 evidence that a process consistently produces a result or product meeting its predetermined
7 specifications. See 21 CFR §820.3(z)(1).
8

9 124. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.75(b), each manufacturer shall establish and maintain
10 procedures for monitoring and control of process parameters for validated processes to ensure that the
11 specified requirements continue to be met. Each manufacturer shall ensure that validated processes are
12 performed by qualified individuals.
13

14 125. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.90, each manufacturer shall establish and maintain procedures
15 to control product that does not conform to specified requirements.
16

17 126. Pursuant to 21 CFR §820.100, each manufacturer shall establish and maintain procedures
18 for implementing corrective and preventive action. The procedures shall include requirements for:

- 19 a. Analyzing processes, work operations, concessions, quality audit reports, quality
20 records, service records, complaints, returned product, and other sources of
21 quality data to identify existing and potential causes of nonconforming product, or
22 other quality problem,
23 b. Investigating the cause of nonconformities relating to product, processes and the
24 quality system;
25 c. Identifying the action(s) needed to correct and prevent recurrence of
26 nonconforming product and other quality problems;
27 d. Verifying or validating the corrective and preventative action to ensure that such
28 action is effective and does not adversely affect the finished device;
e. Implementing and recording changes in methods and procedures needed to correct
and prevent identified quality problems;

- 1 f. Ensuring that information related to quality problems or nonconforming product
2 is disseminated to those directly responsible for assuring the quality of such
3 product or the prevention of such problems; and
4 g. Submitting relevant information on identified quality problems, as well as
5 corrective and preventative actions, for management review.

6 **DEFENDANTS' BARD RECOVERY ® FILTER SYSTEM IS A 510(k) CLEARED**
7 **MEDICAL DEVICE**

8 127. Defendants submitted a §510(k) premarket notification and obtained marketing clearance
9 for its Bard Recovery ® Filter System from the F.D.A. under Section 510(k) of the Act. *See* 21 U.S.C.
10 §360 *et seq.*

11 128. Under the §510(k) approval process, the F.D.A. determined that Defendants' Bard
12 Recovery ® Filter System was "substantially equivalent" to devices that have been reclassified in
13 accordance with the provisions of the Act and did not require F.D.A. approval of a pre-market approval
14 application (PMA).

15 129. Upon information and belief, Defendants' Bard Recovery ® Filter System is adulterated
16 pursuant to 21 U.S.C. §351 because, among other things, it failed to meet established performance
17 standards, and/or the methods, facilities, or controls used for its manufacture, packing, storage or
18 installation are not in conformity with federal requirements. *See* 21 U.S.C. §351.

19 130. Upon information and belief, Defendants' Bard Recovery ® Filter System is misbranded
20 because, among other things, it is dangerous to health when used in the manner prescribed,
21 recommended or suggested in the labeling thereof. *See* 21 U.S.C. §352.

22 131. Upon information and belief, Defendants' Bard Recovery ® Filter System is adulterated
23 pursuant to 21 U.S.C. §351 because Defendants failed to establish and maintain CGMP for their Bard
24 G2X® Filter System in accordance with 21 CFR §820 *et seq.*, as set forth above.

25 132. Upon information and belief, Defendants failed to establish and maintain CGMP with
26
27
28

1 respect to the quality audits, quality testing and process validation for their Bard Recovery ® Filter
2 System.

3 133. As a result of Defendants' failure to establish and maintain CGMP as set forth above,
4 Defendants' Bard Recovery ® Filter System was defective and failed, resulting in injuries to the
5 Plaintiff.
6

7 134. If Defendants had complied with the federal requirements regarding CGMP, Defendants'
8 Bard Recovery ® Filter System would have been manufactured properly such that it would not have
9 resulted in injuries to the Plaintiff.
10

11 **SPECIFIC FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS AS TO PLAINTIFF**

12 135. On or about February 18, 2005, Plaintiff Ron Preuit underwent surgical placement of a
13 Bard Recovery ® Filter System.

14 136. This Bard Recovery ® Filter System was designed, manufactured, prepared,
15 compounded, assembled, processed, marketed, distributed, and sold by Defendants Bard and BPV.
16

17 137. It has been discovered that all the Bard Recovery ® Filter System's legs had perforated
18 the IVC wall and one leg is in direct contact with the wall of the aorta. The filter system caused serious
19 injury to the Plaintiff and presented a risk of serious injury and/or death in the future. Plaintiff has
20 incurred significant medical expenses and has endured extreme pain and suffering, loss of enjoyment of
21 life, and other losses, some of which are permanent in nature. As a result of the failure of the Bard
22 Recovery ® Filter System, Plaintiff has become impaired and his ability to earn wages has been
23 diminished and will remain so in the future. Plaintiff still experiences the physical and mental sequelae
24 suffered as a result of the filter and the injuries caused.
25

26 **FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT**

27 138. Any applicable statutes of limitation have been tolled by the knowing and active
28 concealment and denial of material facts known by Defendants when they had a duty to disclose those

1 facts. They have kept Plaintiff ignorant of vital information essential to the pursuit of their claims,
2 without any fault or lack of diligence on Plaintiff's part, for the purpose of obtaining delay on Plaintiff's
3 part in filing on their causes of action. Defendants' fraudulent concealment did result in such delay.
4

5 139. Defendants are estopped from relying on the statute of limitations defense because
6 Defendants failed to timely disclose, among other things, facts evidencing the defective and
7 unreasonably dangerous nature of the Recovery®, G2®, Eclipse ® and Meridian ® Filter Systems.
8

9 140. The Defendants are and were under a continuing duty to disclose the true character,
10 quality and nature of the device that was implanted in Plaintiff, but instead they concealed them.
11 Defendants' conduct, as described in this complaint, amounts to conduct purposely committed, which
12 Defendants must have realized was dangerous, heedless and reckless, without regard to the
13 consequences or the rights and safety of Plaintiff.
14

15 **CORPORATE/VICARIOUS LIABILITY**

16 141. At all times herein mentioned, each of the Defendants was the agent, servant, partner,
17 aider and abettor, co-conspirator and/or joint venturer of each of the other Defendants herein and was at
18 all times operating and acting within the purpose and scope of said agency, service, employment,
19 partnership, conspiracy and/or joint venture and rendered substantial assistance and encouragement to
20 the other Defendants, knowing that their collective conduct constituted a breach of duty owed to the
21 Plaintiff.
22

23 142. There exists and, at all times herein mentioned, there existed a unity of interest in
24 ownership between certain Defendants and other certain Defendants such that any individuality and
25 separateness between the certain Defendants has ceased and these Defendants are the alter ego of the
26 other certain Defendants and exerted control over those Defendants. Adherence to the fiction of the
27 separate existence of these certain Defendants as entities distinct from other certain Defendants will
28 permit an abuse of the corporate privilege and would sanction a fraud and/or would promote injustice.

143. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants, and each of them, were engaged in the business of, or were successors in interest to, entities engaged in the business of researching, designing, formulating, compounding, testing, manufacturing, producing, processing, assembling, inspecting, distributing, marketing, labeling, promoting, packaging, prescribing and/or advertising for sale, and selling products for use by the Plaintiff. As such, each Defendant is individually, as well as jointly and severally, liable to the Plaintiff for Plaintiff's damages.

144. At all times herein mentioned, the officers and/or directors of the Defendants named herein participated in, authorized and/or directed the production and promotion of the aforementioned products when they knew, or with the exercise of reasonable care and diligence should have known, of the hazards and dangerous propensities of said products, and thereby actively participated in the tortious conduct that resulted in the injuries suffered by the Plaintiff.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION NEGLIGENCE

145. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

146. At all times relevant to this cause of action, the Defendants Bard and BPV were in the business of designing, developing, setting specifications, manufacturing, marketing, selling, and distributing the Bard Recovery ® Filter System.

147. Defendants designed, manufactured, marketed, inspected, labeled, promoted, distributed and sold the Bard Recovery ® Filter System that was implanted in Plaintiff.

148. Defendants had a duty to exercise reasonable and prudent care in the development, testing, design, manufacture, inspection, marketing, labeling, promotion, distribution and sale of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System so as to avoid exposing others to foreseeable and unreasonable risks of harm.

1 149. Defendants knew or reasonably should have known that the Bard Recovery ® Filter
2 System was dangerous or was likely to be dangerous when used in its intended or reasonably foreseeable
3 manner.

4
5 150. At the time of manufacture and sale of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System Defendants
6 knew or should have known that the Bard Recovery ® Filter System:

- 7 a. Was designed and manufactured in such a manner so as to present an unreasonable
8 risk of fracture of portions of the device;
- 9 b. Was designed and manufactured so as to present a unreasonable risk of migration of
10 the device and/or portions of the device; and/or
- 11 c. Was designed and manufactured so as to present a unreasonable risk of the device
12 perforating the vena cava wall; and/or
- 13 d. Was designed and manufactured to have unreasonable and insufficient strength or
14 structural integrity to withstand normal placement within the human body.

15 151. At the time of manufacture and sale of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System, Defendants
16 knew or should have known that using the filter in its intended use or in a reasonably foreseeable
17 manner created a significant risk of a patient suffering severe health side effects, including, but not
18 limited to: hemorrhage; cardiac/pericardial tamponade; cardiac arrhythmia and other symptoms similar
19 to myocardial infarction; perforations of tissue, vessels and organs; and other severe personal injuries
20 and diseases, which are permanent in nature, including, but not limited to, death, physical pain and
21 mental anguish, scarring and disfigurement, diminished enjoyment of life, continued medical care and
22 treatment due to chronic injuries/illness proximately caused by the device; and the continued risk of
23 requiring additional medical and surgical procedures including general anesthesia, with attendant risk of
24 life threatening complications.
25
26
27
28

1 152. Defendants knew or reasonably should have known that consumers or users of the Bard
2 Recovery ® Filter System would not realize the danger associated with using the device in its intended
3 use and/or in a reasonably foreseeable manner.

4
5 153. Defendants breached their duty to exercise reasonable and prudent care in the
6 development, testing, design, manufacture, inspection, marketing, labeling, promotion, distribution and
7 sale of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System in, among other ways, the following acts and omissions:

- 8 a. Designing and distributing a product in which they knew or should have known that
9 the likelihood and severity of potential harm from the product exceeded the burden of
10 taking safety measures to reduce or avoid harm;
- 11 b. Failing to use reasonable care in manufacturing the product and producing a product
12 that differed from their design or specifications or from other typical units from the
13 same production line;
- 14 c. Failing to use reasonable care to warn or instruct Plaintiff, Plaintiff's physicians, or
15 the general health care community about the Bard Recovery ® Filter's substantially
16 dangerous condition or about facts making the product likely to be dangerous;
- 17 d. Failing to perform reasonable pre and post-market testing of the Bard Recovery ®
18 Filter System to determine whether or not the product was safe for its intended use;
- 19 e. Failing to provide adequate instructions, guidelines, and safety precautions to those
20 persons to whom it was reasonably foreseeable would prescribe, use, and implant the
21 Bard Recovery ® Filter System;
- 22 f. Advertising, marketing and recommending the use of the Bard Recovery ® Filter
23 System, while concealing and failing to disclose or warn of the dangers known by the
24 Defendants to be connected with and inherent in the use of the Bard Recovery ®
25 Filter System;
- 26 g. Representing that the Bard Recovery ® Filter System was safe for its intended use
27 when in fact, the Defendants knew and should have known the product was not safe
28 for its intended purpose;
- h. Continuing manufacture and sale of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System with the
knowledge that said product was dangerous and not reasonably safe, and failing to
comply with FDA regulations and policy;

- i. Failing to use reasonable and prudent care in the design, research, manufacture, and development of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System so as to avoid the risk of serious harm associated with the use of the Recovery ® Filter;
- j. Advertising, marketing, promoting and selling the Bard Recovery ® Filter System for uses other than as approved and indicated in the product's label;
- k. Failing to establish an adequate quality assurance program used in the manufacturing of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System;
- l. Failing to establish and maintain an adequate post-market surveillance program.

154. A reasonable manufacturer, distributor, or seller under the same or similar circumstances would not have engaged in the before-mentioned acts and omissions.

155. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing negligent acts and omissions by Defendants, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer serious physical injuries, economic loss, loss of enjoyment of life, disability, and other losses, in an amount to be determined at trial.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY - FAILURE TO WARN

156. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

157. Defendants designed, set specifications, manufactured, prepared, compounded, assembled, processed, marketed, labeled, distributed, and sold the Bard Recovery ® Filter System, including the one implanted into Plaintiff, into the stream of commerce and in the course of same, directly advertised and marketed the device to consumers or persons responsible for consumers, and therefore had a duty to warn of risk of harm associated with the use of the device and to provide adequate instructions on the safe and proper use of the device.

158. At the time Defendants designed, manufactured, prepared, compounded, assembled, processed, marketed, labeled, distributed, and sold the device into the stream of commerce, Defendants

1 knew or should have known the device was defective and presented an unreasonable danger to users of
2 the product when put to its intended and reasonably anticipated use. The Defendants failed to adequately
3 warn of the device's known or reasonably scientifically knowable dangerous propensities, and failed to
4 provide adequate instructions on the safe and proper use of the device.
5

6 159. The Defendants knew or should have known at the time they manufactured, labeled,
7 distributed and sold the Bard Recovery ® Filter System, which was implanted in Plaintiff, that the Bard
8 Recovery ® Filter System, *inter alia*, posed a significant and higher risk than other similar devices of
9 device failure (fracture, migration, and perforation of the vena cava wall) and resulting serious injuries.
10

11 160. Therefore, Defendants had a duty to warn of the risk of harm associated with the use of
12 the device and to provide adequate instructions on the safe and proper use of the device. Defendants
13 further had a duty to warn of dangers and proper safety instructions that it became aware of even after
14 the device was distributed and implanted in Plaintiff.
15

16 161. The Defendants failed to timely and reasonable warn of material facts regarding the
17 safety and efficacy of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System. No health care provider, including Plaintiff's
18 physicians, or patient would have used the device in the manner directed, had those facts been made
19 known to the prescribing healthcare providers and/or ultimate users of the device.
20

21 162. The warnings, labels, and instructions provided by the Defendants at all times relevant to
22 this action, are and were inaccurate, intentionally misleading, and misinformed and misrepresented the
23 risks and benefits and lack of safety and efficacy associated with the device.
24

25 163. The Defendants failed to perform, establish or otherwise facilitate adequate testing and/or
26 quality assurance programs; either of which would have shown that the device posed serious and
27 potential life threatening adverse effects and complications.
28

1 164. The health risks associated with the device as described herein are of such a nature that
2 ordinary consumers would not have readily recognized the potential harm. The device, which was
3 designed, manufactured, prepared, compounded, assembled, processed, marketed, labeled, distributed,
4 and sold into the stream of commerce by the Defendants, was defective at the time of release into the
5 stream of commerce due to inadequate warnings, labeling and/or instructions accompanying the product.
6

7 165. When Plaintiff was implanted with the device, the Defendants failed to provide any
8 warnings, instructions, or labels regarding the severity and extent of health risks posed by the device, as
9 discussed herein.
10

11 166. Neither Plaintiff nor the health care providers knew of the substantial danger associated
12 with the intended and foreseeable use of the device as described herein until after Plaintiff's injury.

13 167. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's health care providers used the device in a normal, customary,
14 intended, and foreseeable manner, namely as a surgically implanted device used to prevent pulmonary
15 embolisms.
16

17 168. Upon information and belief, the Bard Recovery ® Filter System implanted in Plaintiff
18 was defective and unreasonably dangerous at the time of release into the stream of commerce due to
19 inadequate warnings, labeling and/or instructions accompanying the product.
20

21 169. The Bard Recovery ® Filter System implanted in Plaintiff was in the same condition as
22 when it was manufactured, inspected, marketed, labeled, promoted, distributed and sold by Defendants.

23 170. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' lack of sufficient warning and/or
24 instructions, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer serious physical injuries, economic loss,
25 loss of enjoyment of life, disability, and other losses, in an amount to be determined at trial.
26

27 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**
28 **STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – DESIGN DEFECTS**

1 171. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in
2 the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

3 172. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants developed, tested, designed,
4 manufactured, inspected, labeled, promoted, distributed and sold into the stream of commerce the Bard
5 Recovery ® Filter System, including the one implanted in Plaintiff.
6

7 173. The Bard Recovery ® Filter System was expected to, and did, reach its intended
8 consumers without substantial change in the condition in which it was in when it left Defendants'
9 possession. In the alternative, any changes that were made to Bard Recovery ® Filter System implanted
10 in Plaintiff were reasonably foreseeable to Defendants.
11

12 174. The Bard Recovery ® Filter System implanted in Plaintiff was defective in design
13 because it failed to perform as safely as persons who ordinarily use the product would have expected at
14 the time of use.

15 175. The Bard Recovery ® Filter System implanted in Plaintiff was defective in design, in that
16 its risks of harm exceeded its claimed benefits.
17

18 176. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's health care providers used the Bard Recovery ® Filter System in
19 a manner that was reasonably foreseeable to Defendants.

20 177. Neither Plaintiff, nor Plaintiff's health care providers could have by the exercise of
21 reasonable care discovered the devices defective condition or perceived its unreasonable dangers prior to
22 Plaintiff's implantation with the device.
23

24 178. As a direct and proximate result of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System's defective design,
25 Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer serious physical injuries, economic loss, loss of
26 enjoyment of life, disability, and other losses, in an amount to be determined at trial.
27

28 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – MANUFACTURING DEFECT

1 179. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in
2 the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

3 180. Defendants designed, set specifications, manufactured, prepared, compounded,
4 assembled, processed, marketed, labeled, distributed, and sold the Bard Recovery ® Filter System that
5 was implanted into Plaintiff.
6

7 181. The Bard Recovery ® Filter System implanted in Plaintiff contained a manufacturing
8 defect when it left the Defendants' possession. The device differed from said Defendants' intended
9 result and/or from other ostensibly identical units of the same product line.
10

11 182. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's health care providers used the device in a manner that was
12 reasonably foreseeable to Defendants.

13 183. As a result of this condition, the product injured Plaintiff and failed to perform as safely
14 as the ordinary consumer would expect when used in a reasonably foreseeable manner.
15

16 184. As a direct and proximate result of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System's manufacturing
17 defect, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer serious physical injuries, economic loss, loss of
18 enjoyment of life, disability, and other losses, in an amount to be determined at trial.

19 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
20 **BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY**

21 185. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in
22 the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

23 186. The Defendants through their officers, directors, agents, representatives, and written
24 literature and packaging, and written and media advertisement, expressly warranted that the Bard
25 Recovery ® Filter was safe and fit for use by consumers, was of merchantable quality, did not produce
26 dangerous side effects, and was adequately tested and fit for its intended use.
27
28

1 187. At the time of making such express warranties, the Defendants knew and/or should have
2 known that the Bard Recovery ® Filter System did not conform to the express warranties and
3 representations and that, in fact, the Bard Recovery ® Filter System is not safe and poses serious health
4 risks, of which the Defendants did not accurately warn.

5
6 188. As a foreseeable, direct, and proximate result of the breach of the express warranties,
7 Plaintiff suffered severe personal injuries and economic loss.

8 189. Plaintiff, her health care providers, and other consumers relied on the express warranties
9 made by the Defendants regarding the safety and efficacy of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System and
10 were reasonable in doing so.

11
12 190. The Defendants inclusive, and each of them, breached their express warranties because
13 the Bard Recovery ® Filter System was and continues to be defective and not reasonably safe for its
14 intended purpose.

15 191. The Defendants expressly represented and warranted to the medical community and
16 American consumers, including Plaintiff and her healthcare providers that the Bard Recovery ® Filter
17 System was safe and fit for the purposes intended, that it was of merchantable quality, that it did not
18 pose dangerous health risks in excess of those risks associated with use of other similar devices, that the
19 side effects it did produce were accurately reflected in the warnings, and that it was adequately tested
20 and fit for its intended use.

21
22
23 192. The Defendants knew and should have known that the representations and express
24 warranties were false, misleading, and untrue in that said Defendants knew the Bard Recovery ® Filter
25 System was not safe and fit for its intended use, and that the Bard Recovery ® Filter System caused its
26 users serious injuries that were not adequately warned of, identified, or represented by these Defendants.
27
28

1 193. As a foreseeable, direct and proximate result of the Defendants breaching their express
2 warranties, as described herein, Plaintiff has suffered injuries as described herein.

3
4 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
5 **BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY**

6 194. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in
7 the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

8 195. At all times relevant to this action, the Defendants designed, researched, developed,
9 manufactured, tested, labeled, inspected, advertised, promoted, marketed, sold, and distributed into the
10 stream of commerce the Recovery ® Filter for use as a temporary surgically implanted device used to
11 prevent pulmonary embolisms and for uses other than as approved and indicated in the product's
12 instructions, warnings, and labels.

13
14 196. At the time and place of the sale, distribution, and supply of the Defendants' Bard
15 Recovery ® Filter System to Plaintiff by way of her health care providers and medical facilities, the
16 Defendants expressly represented and warranted, by labeling materials submitted with the product, that
17 the Bard Recovery ® Filter System was safe and effective for its intended use.

18
19 197. The Defendants knew of the intended use of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System, at the
20 time they marketed, sold, and distributed the product for use by Plaintiff, and impliedly warranted the
21 product to be of merchantable quality, and safe and fit for its intended use.

22 198. The Defendants impliedly represented and warranted to the healthcare community,
23 Plaintiff and her health care providers, that the Bard Recovery ® Filter System was safe and of
24 merchantable quality and fit for the ordinary purpose for which the product was intended and marketed
25 to be used.

26
27 199. The representations and implied warranties made by the Defendants were false,
28 misleading, and inaccurate because the Bard Recovery ® Filter System was defective, unsafe,

1 unreasonably dangerous, and not of merchantable quality, when used as it was marketed and intended to
2 be used. Specifically, at the time Plaintiff purchased the Bard Recovery ® Filter System from the
3 Defendants, through her attending physicians and medical facilities, it was not in a merchantable
4 condition in that:

- 5 a. It was designed in such a manner so as to be prone to a statistically high incidence of
6 failure, including fracture, migration, and perforation of the inferior vena cava; and
7
- 8 b. It was designed in such a manner so as to result in a statistically significant incidence
9 of injury to the organs and anatomy.

10 200. Plaintiff and the health care providers reasonably relied on the superior skill and
11 judgment of the Defendants as the designers, researchers and manufacturers of the product, as to
12 whether the Recovery ® Filter was of merchantable quality and safe and fit for its intended use, and also
13 relied on the implied warranty of merchantability and fitness for the particular use and purpose for
14 which the Recovery ® Filter was manufactured and sold.

15 201. The Defendants placed the Bard Recovery ® Filter System into the stream of commerce
16 in a defective, unsafe, and unreasonably dangerous condition, and the product was expected to and did
17 reach Plaintiff without substantial change in the condition in which the Bard Recovery ® Filter System
18 was manufactured and sold.

19 202. The Defendants breached their implied warranty because their Bard Recovery ® Filter
20 System was not fit for its intended use and purpose.

21 203. As a proximate result of the Defendants breaching their implied warranties, Plaintiff was
22 caused to suffer the injuries and damages described in this complaint.

23
24
25 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
26 **FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION**

27 204. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein and
28 further allege on information and belief as follows.

1 205. Defendants, having undertaken the manufacturing, marketing, prescription, dispensing,
2 distribution and promotion of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System, owed a duty not to deceive Plaintiff,
3 her health care providers and the public regarding the character, safety, quality and/or effectiveness of
4 their product.

5
6 206. Since the product's approval and on multiple occasions to the present date, Defendants
7 fraudulently misrepresented and published information in various forms of media (including, but not
8 limited to, ad campaigns, television, internet, etc.) regarding their product's character, safety, quality and
9 effectiveness.

10
11 207. At the time of Defendants' fraudulent misrepresentations, Plaintiff was unaware of the
12 falsity of the statements and reasonably believed them to be true.

13 208. Defendants breached their duties to Plaintiff by providing false, incomplete, and
14 misleading information regarding Bard Recovery ® Filter System.

15
16 209. Defendants acted with deliberate intent to deceive and mislead Plaintiff, the medical
17 providers, and the public.

18 210. Plaintiff reasonably relied on Defendants' deceptive, inaccurate and fraudulent
19 misrepresentations.

20 211. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' fraudulent misrepresentations, Plaintiff
21 suffered physical pain and mental anguish, diminished enjoyment of life, medical, health, and
22 incidental and related expenses.

23
24 212. Defendants' conduct was committed with knowing, conscious, wanton, willful and
25 deliberate disregard for the value of human life and the rights and safety to patients/consumers,
26 including Plaintiff, thereby entitling Plaintiff to punitive and exemplary damages so as to punish
27 Defendants and deter them from similar conduct in the future.
28

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION
NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION

213. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

214. At all times relevant to this cause, and as detailed *supra*, the Defendants negligently provided Plaintiff, the public at large, and the medical community, with false or incorrect information, or omitted or failed to disclose material information concerning the Bard Recovery ® Filter System, including, but not limited to, misrepresentations relating to the following subject areas:

- a. The safety of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System;
- b. The efficacy of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System;
- c. The rate of failure of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System; and
- d. The approved uses of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System.

215. The information distributed by the Defendants to the public, the medical community and Plaintiff was in the form of reports, press releases, advertising campaigns, labeling materials, print advertisements, commercial media containing material representations, which were false and misleading, and contained omissions and concealment of the truth about the dangers of the use of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System. The Defendants made the foregoing misrepresentations knowing that they were false or without reasonable basis. These materials included instructions for use and warning document that was included in the package of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System that was implanted in Plaintiff.

216. The Defendants' intent and purpose in making these misrepresentations was to deceive and defraud the public and the medical community, including Plaintiff's healthcare providers; to gain the confidence of the public and the medical community, including Plaintiff's healthcare providers; to falsely assure them of the quality of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System and its fitness for use; and to

1 induce the public and the medical community, including Plaintiff's healthcare providers to request,
2 recommend, prescribe, implant, purchase, and continue to use the Bard Recovery ® Filter System.

3 217. The foregoing representations and omissions by the Defendants were in fact false. The
4 Bard Recovery ® Filter System is not safe, fit, and effective for human use in its intended and
5 reasonably foreseeable manner. The use of the Bard Recovery ® Filter System is hazardous to the user's
6 health, and said device has a serious propensity to cause users to suffer serious injuries, including
7 without limitation, the injuries Plaintiff suffered. Further, the device has a significantly higher rate of
8 failure and injury than do other comparable devices.

9
10 218. In reliance upon the false and negligent misrepresentations and omissions made by the
11 Defendants, Plaintiff and her health care providers were induced to, and did use the Bard Recovery ®
12 Filter System, thereby causing Plaintiff to sustain severe and permanent personal injuries. The
13 Defendants knew and had reason to know that Plaintiff, her health care providers, and the general
14 medical community did not have the ability to determine the true facts intentionally and/or negligently
15 concealed and misrepresented by the Defendants, and would not have prescribed and implanted same, if
16 the true facts regarding the device had not been concealed and misrepresented by the Defendants.

17
18 219. The Defendants had sole access to material facts concerning the defective nature of the
19 product and its propensity to cause serious and dangerous complications in the form of dangerous
20 injuries and damages to persons who are implanted with the Bard Recovery ® Filter System.

21
22 220. At the time the Defendants failed to disclose and misrepresented the foregoing facts, and
23 at the time Plaintiff used the Bard Recovery ® Filter System, Plaintiff and her health care providers
24 were unaware of said Defendants' negligent misrepresentations and omissions.

25
26 221. Plaintiff, her health care providers and the general medical community reasonably relied
27 upon the misrepresentations and omissions made by the Defendants where knowledge of the concealed
28

1 and misrepresented facts were critical to understanding the true dangers inherent in the use of the Bard
2 Recovery ® Filter System.

3 222. Plaintiff and her health care provider's reliance on the foregoing misrepresentations and
4 omissions by the Defendants was the direct and proximate cause of Plaintiff's harm as described herein.
5

6 **PUNITIVE DAMAGES ALLEGATIONS**

7 223. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each preceding and succeeding paragraph as though
8 set forth fully at length herein.

9 224. Plaintiffs' injury was the result of misconduct of Defendants that manifested a flagrant
10 disregard of the safety of persons who might be harmed by the product in question.
11

12 225. Defendants fraudulently withheld information known to be material and relevant to the
13 harm that Plaintiffs suffered or misrepresented the information of that type.

14 226. Defendants engaged in fraudulent and malicious conduct towards Plaintiff, her medical
15 providers and the public, and thereby acted with willful and wanton and/or conscious and reckless
16 disregard for the safety of Plaintiff and the public.
17

18 227. Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs for punitive damages for their wanton, reckless and/or
19 willful conduct in the manufacturing, designing, formulating, producing, creating, making, constructing,
20 and/or assembling a product that is defective.

21 228. Plaintiff re-alleges each and every allegation in this Complaint and incorporates each
22 allegation into this Count, as if set forth at length, in its entirety.
23

24 229. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of punitive and exemplary damages based upon
25 Defendants' intentional, willful, knowing, fraudulent, malicious acts, omissions, and conduct, and their
26 complete and total reckless disregard for the public safety and welfare.
27
28

1 **230.** Defendants had knowledge of, and were in possession of evidence demonstrating that, the
2 Recovery ® Filter was defective and unreasonably dangerous and had a substantially higher failure rate
3 than did other similar devices on the market. Yet, Defendants failed to:

- 4 **a.** Inform or warn Plaintiff or the health care providers of the dangers;
5
6 **b.** To establish and maintain an adequate quality and post-market surveillance system;
7 and
8 **c.** Recall the Bard Recovery ® Filter System from the market.

9 **231.** Defendants acted to serve their own interests and having reasons to know and
10 consciously disregarding the substantial risk that their product might kill or significantly harm patients,
11 or significantly injure the rights of others, and consciously pursued a course of conduct knowing that
12 such conduct created a substantial risk of significant harm to other persons.

13
14 **232.** As a direct, proximate, and legal result of Defendants' acts and omissions a described
15 herein, and Plaintiff implantation with Defendants' defective product, Plaintiff has suffered and will
16 continue to suffer serious physical injuries, economic loss, loss of enjoyment of life, disability, and other
17 losses, in an amount to be determined at trial.

18
19 **PRAYER FOR DAMAGES**

20 **WHEREFORE,** Plaintiff, prays for relief on the entire complaint, as follows:

- 21 **a.** Judgment to be entered against all defendants on all causes of action of this
22 Complaint, including but not limited to:
23 1. Physical pain and suffering in the past and which, in reasonable
24 probability, she will continue to suffer in the future;
25 2. Physical impairment and incapacity in the past and which, in reasonable
26 probability, she will continue to suffer in the future;
27 3. Pain, suffering and mental anguish in the past and which, in reasonable
28 probability, she will sustain in the future;

4. Reasonable and necessary medical expenses for treatment received in the past and, based upon reasonable medical probability, the reasonable medical expenses she will need in the future;
 5. Loss of earning capacity in the past and future; and
 6. Punitive damages.
- b. Plaintiff be awarded full, fair, and complete recovery for all claims and causes of action relevant to this action;
 - c. Plaintiff be awarded all appropriate costs, fees, expenses, and pre-judgment and post judgment interest pursuant to the laws of the State of Texas as authorized by law on the judgments entered in Plaintiffs' behalf; and,
 - d. Such other relief the court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands trial by jury on all issues.

Dated: July 9, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

TOLLIVER LAW FIRM, P.C.


Tyler T. Dugger

Attorney for Plaintiff